TIME LINES

Planning Well Underway for Museum Transformation

As reported in this newsletter last July (volume XIII, issue 3), the museum has been granted \$3.5 million by the City of Tempe to completely renovate the exhibit hall and make other needed improvements to the public spaces in the museum building. Since that time, a steering committee composed of museum staff, Community Services Department managers, Development Services Department staff, and representatives from the Historical Museum Advisory Board and Tempe Historical Society Board have been working on the preliminary planning.

First the steering committee formulated a mission statement that would define the goals and scope of the project. The mission statement will serve as a touch stone throughout the various phases of the project to insure that the steering committee stays on task, and that the funds are spent in the most effective way possible to achieve the project's goals. The main goal of the project is to transform the museum into a destination attraction as the "Best Community History Museum in the West." In order to achieve these objectives, the committee will:

- redefine the exhibit area to feature flexible spaces with changing exhibits;
- integrate new technology with innovative interpretation to dramatically stage the stories of Tempe;
- increase programming space, creating a versatile multi-use area, and improve the efficiency of non-public space in order to accommodate this expansion;
- create a dynamic, highly visible museum entrance;
- create a children's area that involves families and schools in historical and educational activities:
- enhance the City of Tempe's investment through grants whenever possible.

The second task involved visiting other museums in the Phoenix metropolitan area, particularly ones that have undergone renovation and/or expansion. Committee members toured such institutions as the Heard Museum. Arizona Museum for Youth and the Phoenix Art Museum to learn firsthand how they accomplished their construction projects and how they currently run their exhibits programs. These tours provided a lot of insights, as well as some "do's" and "don'ts." Concurrent with these tours, a graduate student intern/volunteer was conducting research on museums over the web to find more examples of best practices.

All the information gathered during the research phase is being compiled and will be a section in (Continued on page 2)



From the Museum Archives:

People always marveled how much the Brooks brothers of Tempe looked alike. Pictured at a family reunion in 1918 are Jimmy (left) indicating how much Teddy (right) had grown; brother Marty (center) looks on. (see page 3)



New Exhibit

Tempe Police: Their Own Story
The size, roles and technology of the
Tempe Police Department have
changed as Tempe has grown. In
addition, the Department's excellent
handling of special events makes it a
model for other local cities. In this
exhibit, officers tell their own story
about what it is like to be a Tempe
police officer. You can also see the
technology changes and learn about
the new roles of officers.

Bring your camera for a photo opportunity of you sitting on a real Tempe Police motorcycle. Stand under the 32-foot wingspan of the Tempe Police Department's ultralight that was used in the 1980s. Put yourself in the role of dispatcher as you listen to live radio calls, and much more! The exhibit is open through spring 2008.

Continuing Exhibit

A Proud Journey Home: Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese Communities in Arizona

This exhibit explores Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese refugee experiences in Tempe 30 years after the Vietnam War. Funded in part through an Arizona Humanities Council "We the People" grant, the exhibit has received several local and national awards. Due to the popularity of this exhibit, its run has been extended.



Planning Well Underway (Continued from page 1)

a project planning guide that will be sent out to architectural firms in order to solicit competitive proposals for this project. Staff from the Engineering Department has been brought on board to oversee project management for the design and construction phases. The project planning guide, along with some conceptual drawings of the renovated exhibit gallery and public spaces, will be presented for public comment during the 3rd Thirstday Night Café on April 19 (see events calendar, page 3). Come and hear the latest developments on this significant project and take the opportunity to tell the steering committee how you would like to see the museum improved. This is your chance to get involved with some landmark changes!

Police and Public Attend Museum Opening in Force

On Friday evening, March 2, a preview reception of the museum's new exhibit, *Tempe Police: Their Own Story*, was held for the Tempe City Council, Tempe Police command and administrative staff, members of the Tempe Historical Society and Historical Museum Advisory Board, and their guests. Police Chief **Tom Ryff** opened the evening with a few brief remarks, stating that he was honored to have the museum feature a special exhibit about the history of the Tempe Police Department.

Approximately 100 guests enjoyed a first-hand look at the exhibit, including the infamous ultralight, an historic time line of the development of the department, a 1970s vintage dispatch desk with a live feed to police channels, the first police woman's uniform, excerpts of recorded oral histories with current and former police personnel, and a video about the force's expertise in handling large public events. One of the hands-on elements of the exhibit offered guests the opportunity to sit on a police motorcycle and have their pictures taken. A special thank you to the Tempe Historical Society for providing the refreshments for the reception.

The police also were present in force at the public opening on the following day. On special display that day were the SWAT armored vehicle, a boat used by the Park Rangers to patrol Tempe Town Lake, a vehicle from the bike squad and the mobile command center. Oscar, a member of the canine unit and Tango, a police horse who has served the city in the mounted unit for 15 years, greeted visitors. On hand to answer questions were Commander David Humble from the downtown bureau; Sergeant Robert Gage with the SWAT team; Detective Matt Harris with the mobile command vehicle; Brandon Banks and Mike Horn with the public information office; Jody Benson with the Park Rangers; licensing specialist "Buck" Rogers; Marty Cook with the mounted unit; and Sergeant Noah Johnson with the canine unit.

The museum staff would like to thank the many members of the Tempe Police Department who worked closely with us to provide the artifacts and information that make this exhibit a true reflection of their story.





Visitors attending the opening of the museum's exhibit, "Tempe Police: Their Own Story," got to see: (top) Officer **Marty Cook** on **Tango**; (above) Sergeant **Noah Johnson** with **Oscar**; and (below) Tempe 's SWAT armored vehicle.



oto by Chanda Miller

APRIL

APRIL 8, Easter Sunday. Museum closed.

TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LUNCH TALKS Wednesday, April 11, 11:30 am Museum classroom / Free

Abel Flores, *Yaqui History and Culture.* Mr. Flores provides an in-depth portrayal of the complex history and culture of the Guadalupe Yaqui community. Bring your lunch. Coffee provided.

3RD THIRSTDAY NIGHT CAFÉ Museum Renovation Round Table Thursday, April 19, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Museum / Free

The museum is open to visitors from 6:30 to 8:30. At 7 pm, join the museum staff, City Architect, and members of the Museum Advisory and Tempe Historical Society boards as we present ideas and concepts for a major renovation to the museum facility. This is your opportunity to give your input to this exciting project.

MAY

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY Saturday, May 19

Visit us on International Museum Day and receive a special gift as our way of saying "thanks for your support."

MONDAY, MAY 28
Memorial Day. Museum closed.

JUNE

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Tuesday, June 5, 1:30 pm Museum Board Room

Find out how you can become a volunteer and make a worthwhile contribution to your community while meeting interesting people and doing rewarding work.



WILD WEDNESDAYS Wednesdays, June 13 to June 27 and July 11 to July 25 Come & go between 10 am & 4 pm Museum / Free admission

The museum's "wildly" popular family program returns. Beat the heat and enjoy special hands-on activities, games and prizes. Each Wednesday will focus on a unique theme.

June 13: Tempe Police
June 20: Join the Circus
June 27: Voyage to Mars
July 11: Farmers and Ranchers
July 18: Prickly & Wild: Desert Plants
July 25: Time Travel: The Roaring 20s

Looking ahead. . .

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Independence Day. Museum closed.

Wednesdays will have something for everyone!

This June and July, Wednesdays will once again be wild at the museum! There will be entertainment, games, and crafts all centered around unique themes that change weekly. Topics include the circus, the Roaring 20s, the Tempe Police Department, farming and ranching, Mars, and desert plants. Come and go anytime during the programs, which run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 13 through July 25 (see quarterly calendar above).

Activities are geared for families and children, but teens and young adults don't have to miss out on the fun—they can participate as volunteers and help *run* the activities for museum visitors. In fact, a team of fun-loving volunteers age 14 and above are needed for *Wild Wednesdays*. Volunteers serve a three-hour shift on Wednesday mornings or afternoons and attend an hour-long weekly preparation session. Applications are available now from the volunteer office—call 480-350-5190.

Passings

Former Historical Museum Advisory Board member and Collections volunteer **Walter** "**Wally**" **Heater** passed away on February 7, 2007 at the age of 79. Wally continued volunteering even after his wife, long-time museum volunteer **Jeanne Heater**, passed away in the 1990s. In addition to working with the museum's collections, the two of them delighted museum visitors by bringing their own Model T Ford to some of the museum's events.

Time Lines is now available online!

You can view the newsletter on the museum's website at www.tempe.gov/museum

Navigate to, "About the Museum" then "Newsletters" to view PDF files of *Time Lines* from April 2005 to the present. If you would like to discontinue receiving a paper copy, call (480) 350-5100 to let us know.

circa 1918; Estelle Hackett, donor.

April Fool's! The photo on page 1 is actually a promotional photograph of circus side show performers R.E. Madison, M. Rich and Tempe native Teodoro Valenzuela. Teodoro was billed as the world's largest man. Tempe Historical Museum Collection,



Time Lines is a quarterly newsletter for museum supporters and volunteers.

Editors: Mary Anna Bastin Jerri Copenhaver Amy Douglass

Comments, suggestions? Call 480-350-5100.

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Thursday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm Sunday 1 - 5 pm MUSEUM GIFT SHOP HOURS Monday - Thursday and Saturday 10 am - 4 pm; Sunday 1 - 4 pm PETERSEN HOUSE HOURS Tuesday - Thursday and Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Visit the museum's website at www.tempe.gov/museum

Step Into History

Photo Update

We published this photograph last fall (volume XII, issue 4), and asked if anyone knew where it had been taken and if it might be Mom's Café, once on the corner of Mill and University. The image was from the 1949 Tempe High School *Horizon* yearbook.

A short time later we received a telephone call



from Jerry Coppinger. She told us the photo had been taken at a diner in Prescott when the cheerleaders had traveled with one of the sports teams, probably the basketball team. Jerry is the cheerleader on the left, in the front row. Sitting next to her are Betty Lou Lindley and Delores Koza. Other students in the picture are Roy Coppinger (now Jerry's husband), Cacho Perez, Hugh Connor, Jimmy Rollins and Dick Sommers.

The Tempe Historical Museum is a center where the community comes together to celebrate Tempe's past and ponder the future.